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1. (Amended) A non-naturally occurring variant TNF- α protein comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least one amino acid substitution as compared to the wild-type TNF- α sequence, wherein said variant TNF- α protein will interact with the wild-type TNF- α to form mixed trimers incapable of activating receptor signaling.

Please add the following new claims, 13 and 14:

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--13. (New) The non-naturally occurring TNF- α protein according to claim 3, wherein said substitution consists of Y115T (SEQ ID NO:20).

14. (New) The non-naturally occurring TNF- α protein according to claim 1, wherein said substitutions are selected from amino acid residues at positions 21, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 65, 66, 67, 111, 112, 115, 140, 143, 144, 145, 146 and 147.

15. (New) The non-naturally occurring TNF- α protein according to claim 14, wherein said substitutions are selected from the group of substitutions consisting of D143E, D143N, D143S, A145R, A145K, A145E, E146K, E146R and A84V.

16. (New) A method of recovering a non-naturally occurring variant TNF- α protein comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least one amino acid substitution as compared to the wild-type TNF- α sequence, wherein said variant TNF- α protein will preferentially interact with the wild-type TNF- α to form mixed trimers incapable of activating receptor signaling, from a host cell.

In the Figures:

Please replace Figure 7 with the substitute Figure 7 herein provided.

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for renumbering the claims to its correct order.

Claims 1-3, and newly added claims 13 and 14 are pending. Claims 4-12 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer as drawn to non-elected inventions. Support for new claim 13 can be found in the specification at Figure 8. Support for new claim 14 can be